
















CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES - BENDIGO

<p><u>Early Childhood Intervention Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children with a disability or developmental delay from birth to school entry. • Provide special education, therapy, counselling, service planning and coordination, assistance and support to access services such as kindergarten and child care. • Referral to this service is made through the Specialist Information and Referral team. <p>Contact: Early Childhood Intervention Services Phone: 1300 363 514 Email: ecis.intake.nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au Web: www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/needs/pages/ecis.aspx</p> 	<p><u>Maternal Child Health Nurse</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for all families with children from birth to school age children. • Free service offering 10 key age consultations including three and a half year old check prior to children attending 4 year old preschool. • Service supports families and their children with emphasis on parenting, prevention and health promotion, developmental assessment, early detection and referral and social support. <p>Contact: City of Greater Bendigo, Community Services Team Phone: 03 4408 6590 Web: https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Community/Children_and_Family_services#.VVV3i_mqpBd</p> 
<p><u>The Orange Door (previously Child FIRST – St Lukes)</u></p> <p>The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children.</p> <p>Contact: The Orange Door Loddon Phone: 1800 512 359 Email: loddon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au Location: 57 View Street, Bendigo 3550</p>	<p><u>Preschool Field Officer (PSFO) Program St Lukes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to support Educator's to promote the participation of all children in preschool. They can help advise, support, advocate and liaise with families. <p>Contact: Susan McGrath or Nicole Murphy Phone: 03 5440 1100 Email: psfo@anglicarevic.org.au</p> 
<p><u>Loddon Mallee Regional Parenting Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver education and support to parents and carers. • Programs and workshops cover a wide range of parenting and family relationship topics. • Information and assistance on parenting issues can be provided to families. <p>Contact: Narelle Williams Phone: 03 5438 1300 Email: fesintake@ccds.org.au narelle.williams@ccds.org.au</p> 	<p><u>CASA – Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide victim/survivors of sexual assault access to comprehensive and timely support and intervention to address their needs. • A free confidential 24 hour emergency or crisis care service is available for victim/survivors who have recently been sexually assaulted. • Counselling support, access to medical care and legal processes. <p>Contact: CASA Sexual Assault Crisis Line (free, available 24 hours) Phone: 1800 806 292 Sexual Assault Counselling Phone: 1800 RESPECT</p> 

<p><u>Off To An Early Start Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program promotes the importance of Early Learning for children. • The program works with families to support regular attendance and participation for children at playgroup, kindergarten and early years of school. • They can also help with joining playgroups or helping enrol children into kindergarten or school. <p>Contact: Pam or Lana Phone: 03 4408 6590</p> 	<p><u>Talking Matters – Speech Pathology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech pathology drop in clinic where families can come to discuss their child’s speech and language concerns. • No referral required or an arranged appointment. Service available for children aged birth to school entry. <p>Contact: Diana Antoniazzi Phone: 03 5454 8783</p>
<p><u>Parentline Victoria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone counselling service to parents and carers of children aged from birth to eighteen years. • Professional counsellors are able to explore a variety of issues that impact on parenting and relationships and provide contact details for community services. <p>Contact: Parentline Phone: 13 22 89 8am – Midnight, 7 days a week</p> 	<p><u>Centre for Non Violence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Non-Violence delivers a range of quality services and programs that respond to family violence and homelessness. • These services and programs are delivered through a continuum of interventions: prevention, protection, recovery, counselling and support. <p>Contact: Women and Children’s Services Phone: 03 5443 4844 1800 884 038 Contact: Men’s Programs/Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network Phone: 03 5434 4100 1800 884 292</p> 
<p><u>Haven - Home Safe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides those who are homeless or in housing crisis access to the support and resources they need to eliminate their homelessness. <p>Contact: Haven – Home Safe Phone: 03 5444 9000 Email: info@hhs.org.au Web: www.lmhs.com.au</p> 	<p><u>Financial Counselling – St Lukes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained financial counsellors provide a free and confidential service to families and individuals experiencing financial difficulties. <p>Contact: St Lukes Free call all areas: 1800 244 323 Phone: 03 5448 1000</p>  <p>Web: www.stlukes.org.au/Pages/Our_Services/Financial_Counselling.aspx</p>
<p><u>Mental Health Services – Medicare Local</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with local communities to keep people healthy and out of hospital. • Access to this mental health service is through your General Practitioner (GP) who is trained to carry out an assessment about the mental health difficulties you are experiencing. • There is no fee to access this service. <p>Contact: Medicare Local Phone: 03 5441 7806 Email: info@lmmml.org.au Web: www.lmmml.org.au</p> 	<p><u>Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home-based learning and parenting program for families with young children. • It is voluntary program and is free for families. • HIPPY families spend around 10-15 minutes a day, five days a week doing educational activities together. • Home tutors schedule regular weekly or fortnightly visits. <p>Referral Contact: Carlene Egan Phone: 03 5430 1200 Email: cegan@stlukes.org.au Web: www.hippyaustralia.bsl.org.au</p> 

<p><u>Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative provides a range of health and social welfare services to the Aboriginal Community of Dja Dja Wrung. <p>Contact: Veronica Phone: 03 5442 4941 Web: www.bdac.com.au</p>	<p><u>Child Dental Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive dental care to eligible children who live in Bendigo and the surrounding area. • All children under 13 years of age irrespective of income. • No referral or waiting list • Children who have toothache or pain or require a check up will be offered the next available appointment. <p>Contact: Community Dental Services Phone: 03 5454 7994</p>
<p><u>Bendigo Community Toy Library</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge variety of toys for loan, aimed at helping children from birth to school age learn the art of play. • Operating hours – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. <p>Phone: 5441 3180 Web: bendigotoylibrary.org.au</p> 	<p><u>Playgroups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgroups provide parents and caregivers with the opportunity to meet new people, gain support and exchange parenting ideas. • They provide babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers with the chance to socialise as they play and learn together. <p>Phone: 03 4408 6590 Email: offtoanearlstart@bendigo.vic.gov.au Web: https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Children-and-Families/Playgroups</p>
<p><u>Paediatrician</u></p> <p>Contact your family GP for referrals to a Paediatrician.</p>	<p><u>About Raising Children Network</u></p> <p>Provides valuable information that can help parents with the day to day decisions of raising children.</p> <p>Web: www.raisingchildren.net.au</p> 
<p><u>RIAC – Rights Information and Advocacy Centre</u></p> <p>Free service building the capacity and well-being of individuals with a disability, their families, carers and the greater community, through our advocacy and support services.</p> <p>Phone: 03 5222 5499 Web: riac.org.au Email: info@riac.org.au</p>	